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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 IO-13
/113 W
----------070367 211711Z /15
R 181223Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8453
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 04806

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: INTERNAL SITUATION

REF: TEHRAN 4742

1. SITUATION CONTINUES QUIET WITH PRESS REPORTING VARIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ONLY TWO INCIDENTS MAY 17. AT AHWAZ, POLICE FIRED INTO THE AIR TO DISPERSE DEMONSTRATION AND UNIVERSITY REMAINS CLOSED. IN SHIRAZ TWO SCHOOL GIRLS AND ONE ENGINEERING STUDENT WERE ARRESTED FOR ANTI-NATIONAL LITERATURE (PERHAPS MAY 16). TOTAL NUMBER ARRESTED HAS NOW RISEN TO 266, ABOUT 40 HIGHER THAN IN YESTERDAY'S PRESS.

2. FOLLOWING MEETING OF UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR IN TEHRAN, PRIME MINISTER AMOUZEGAR ANNOUNCED A LAW IS BEING WRITTEN TO EXTEND THE POWERS OF UNIVERSITY CHANCELLORS. CHANCELLOR OF ONE UNIVERSITY INFORMS US NEW LAW IS SIMPLY THE CONTROVERSIAL ONE LONG IN PREPARATION WHICH WILL ABOLISH MINISTRY OF
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SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION AND MAKE UNIVERSITY CHANCELLORS RESPONSIBLE TO THE NEW GOI BOARD OF SUPER-VISORS. IT WILL BE INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT IN ABOUT 10 DAYS. CHANCELLORS WERE ENCOURAGED TO DEAL MORE VIGOROUSLY WITH STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS BUT NO SPECIFIC NEW POWERS GIVEN.

3. AMOUZEGAR IN SEPARATE SPEECH TO RESURGENCE PARTY

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POLITICAL BUREAU ORDERED MORE AUSTERITY AND CUTTING OF
RED TAPE ON PART OF GOI BUREAUCRACY, BUT CHARACTERIZED
DEMONSTRATORS AS SMALL MINORITY OF "DETERMINED ANARCHISTS"
WHO DO NOT REPRESENT VAST POPULATION OF IRAN AND CANNOT
BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE DISRUPTING THE COUNTRY. HE ALSO
ANNOUNCED 1,900 RASTAKHIZ MEMBERS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE
FROM ALL OVER IRAN WILL MEET IN TEHRAN SATURDAY, MAY 20,
TO ELECT NEW RASTAKHIZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF 55.
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